

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claim 1-37 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 3, and 34-36 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 3, 34-36 are independent claims pending in the application.

Applicant's independent claims have been amended to include the features of claims 4 and 6. Claims 4 and 6 have been cancelled herein.

Applicant's claimed invention, for example claims 1 and 3, include a service control apparatus having a first path information storing a correspondence relationship between an address of a communication terminal which is a designation of a service request packet request and an address of an apparatus which is a designation of a next service request packet.

The service control apparatus rewrites the current source address in the service request packet to its own address based on the first path information of receiving the service request packet.

The service control apparatus transmits a service request packet, in which the current source address and the current destination address is rewritten, to an apparatus indicated in a current destination address after rewriting the current destination address in the service request packet to an address of an apparatus which is a designation of the next service request packet. The service control apparatus also transmits the service request packet in case the setting of service requested for communication is permitted.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-36 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. (6,598,071) (Hayashi) in view of Sreenan (5,742,772).

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Hayashi and Sreenan does not disclose the service control apparatus nor the relay apparatus for judging whether the service request packet should be transmitted to the service control apparatus which controls its own setting of service based on the current source address as claimed by applicant.

The Office Action points to col. 3, lines 34-50 and col. 4, lines 13-36, with regard to the features of claims 4 and 37 and to Sreenan col. 4, lines 63-66 for claim 6, however there is no discussion in this section concerning a correspondence relationship between an address of a communication terminal which is a designation of said service request packet request and an address of an apparatus which is a designation of a next service request packet.

The reference describes: An address conversion table to match corresponding server unique addresses and group addresses is held in the relay equipment and packet conversion is performed by referring to this table. Dynamically assigning the server group address is achieved by rewriting the relation of corresponding unique address and group addresses in this table. This packet address conversion function can be provided for some or for all of the relay equipment as required by the network configuration.

It is respectfully submitted applicant's unique combination of features are not suggested in the cited references.

Also it is agreed that Hayashi does not disclose nor suggests the configuration wherein the relay apparatus controls the forwarding address of the service request packet based on the current source address. However it is respectfully submitted Sreenan also does not disclose nor suggests this feature.

A relay apparatus performs a communication process for the service control apparatus by using a dedicated communication path to receive an instruction of permission or no permission to perform services from the service control apparatus.

Applicant's claims recite a relay apparatus which receives an instruction of permission or no permission to perform services from the service control apparatus by transmission of a service request packet, which has been transmitted from the source communication terminal, to the service control apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that Sreenan in combination with Hayashi also fail to describe this feature of applicant's claimed invention.

Claims 34-36 are also non-obvious over the combination of Hayashi and Sreenan for at least the foregoing reasons as pointed out above with respect to claims 1 and 3.

In applicant's claim 37 the service control apparatus issues permission to a plurality of relay apparatuses within the domain of the service control apparatus itself when a service request packet is received from a single relay apparatus.

Sreenan describes communication performed with a service control apparatus per each relay apparatus. Each relay apparatus receives permission for execution of a service from the service control apparatus by individually inquiring whether or not to execute the service.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references discloses or suggests this operation of the service control apparatus.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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